

# MEDIA RELEASE

## StormSafe Week 2015



This year during StormSafe Week (14 – 20 September), Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) is urging Victorians to get ready and make sure they know what to do to protect their property, possessions, livelihood and ultimately their lives during a storm.

Storms in Victoria are dangerous and unpredictable. In the past year, VICSES responded to almost 18,000 calls from Victorians who have suffered damage due to storms. Much of the damage was the result of leaking roofs, fallen tree limbs or loose items such as roof tiles and garden furniture becoming flying projectiles. This damage is preventable.

A recent study conducted by VICSES found that 80% of Victorians believe they could be impacted by a storm in the near future however only 44% believe they are adequately prepared. That is why this year, VICSES is asking: Do you know what to do?

VICSES CEO Stephen Griffin said as always, the focus for StormSafe Week is to get ready before a storm hits.

“A few simple actions can make a big difference. Once you start thinking about what effect a storm can have on your day-to day life, it’s a lot easier to do something about it.”

“One of the key responsibilities of VICSES is to increase awareness about the potential impacts of storms as well as provide simple and useful tips on how everyone can take responsibility for their own safety.”

There are many things to consider when either preparing for a storm or being faced with one. Common sense things that can go by the wayside in the heat of the moment like staying indoors and ensuring your pets and livestock are safe. When moving around after a storm keep clear of fallen power lines and never drive through floodwater.

Before a storm you should be thinking about securing outside furniture and things like trampolines and making sure your vehicles are undercover or at least away from trees.

Long term strategies include; removing overhanging branches, regularly clearing gutters and downpipes and regularly cleaning up around your property.

Something else to keep in mind is to regularly back up your computer and make copies of important documents. It is also prudent to be aware of the status of your insurance cover and whether it is adequate and appropriate.

For more information about how to get ready for storms during StormSafe Week visit [www.ses.vic.gov.au/stormsafe](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au/stormsafe)

**End release**

**For further information contact Travis Fitzgibbon on 1300 520 520**